

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A filter, comprising a synthetic filter material having a planar surface ~~formed into a filter structure~~ and having at least one embossment on the planar surface, the embossment having a depth relative to the planar surface which depth is ~~of~~ at least about 1.5 mm and greater than the thickness of the filter material.

2. (currently amended) The filter of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filter material is a hydrocarbon-based material.

3. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filter material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof.

4. (currently amended) The filter of claim 1, wherein said filter material has a permeability ~~of~~ to air ~~to~~ of at least about $4 \text{ l/m}^2/\text{s}$ at standard conditions.

5. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment

has a depth of at least about 4.0 mm.

6. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment has a depth of at least about 5.0 mm.

7. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said material has a weight of greater than or equal to about 50 g/m².

8. (original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment has said depth and a width, and wherein a ratio of said depth to said width is at least about 1:10.

9. (currently amended) A method for forming a filter, comprising the steps of:

providing a synthetic filter material having a planar surface and a thickness;

forming at least one embossment into the planar surface of said material, said embossment having a depth relative to said planar surface which is greater than the thickness of the material and ~~of~~ at least about 1.5 mm, so as to provide an embossed synthetic material; and

forming said embossed synthetic material into said filter.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said filter material is a hydrocarbon-based material.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said filter material has a permeability to air of at least about $4.0 \text{ l/m}^2/\text{s}$ at standard conditions.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of heating said material to a melting point of said material prior to forming said embossment.

14. (original) The method claim 9, wherein said embossment has a depth of at least about 4.0 mm.

15. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of forming said embossment comprises forming said embossment having a depth of at least about 5.0 mm.

16. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said embossed

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material is substantially free of ruptures at said embossment.

17. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said material has a weight of greater than or equal to about 50 g/m².

18. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said embossment has said depth and a width, and wherein a ratio of said depth to said width is at least about 1:10.